JAPAN.

THEATRICAL PROGRESS. THREE REFORMS IN THEATRICAL ART-HISTORI-

CAL REPRESENTATIONS—LEWD COMEDIES— WOMEN ON THE STAGE. PROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. YEDO, Nov. 1 .- Three important steps in the progress of Japanese, theatrical art have recently been taken. Public notification has been given that instorical dramas may be represented with strict fidelity to the records of ancient events, and that conspicuously indecent comedies will be suppressed, and women have been introduced upon the stage to impersonate female characters. For the first two of these improvements we are indebted to the Government. As Napoleon—the Na-poleon—did not deem it beneath his dignity to send de-crees from Moscow for the regulation of the Theatre Français, so the officials of Yedo have taken it as a part of their duty to give counsel in the management of the play-houses of the metropolis. The first reform they have suggested is of an extreme by democratic tendency. It recognizes the right of the people to the accurate reproduction of historic chronicles, without regard to any ensitive prejudices of the old privileged classes. Hitherto, in the representation of incidents in which the great families of Japan were concerned, it has been necessary to adopt such variations as were required by the official censor, and especially to change names, dates and localities, so as to avoid the suspicion of precise identity. For example, in the dramatization of the exciting scenes of the "Forty-seven Ronins," which actually took place in Yedo, some 250 years ago, the place is changed to Kamakura, an older capital of the Sioguns, and the period set back another couple of centuries. But now the stage directors have been informed that no restrictions in this respect will hereafter be imposed. They are free to teach history, after their fashion, as it really was, and without the obscurities which the old nobles wished to throw over it. In regard to the lewd farces which are henceforth to be prohibited, public opinion is entirely with the authorities. Since the higher classes of the community have begun to patronize the theaters, these exhibitions have been greatly discouraged, and it is probable that they would presently have died out, even without Government interference. The manner in which the new decree was communicated is characteristically told in the following proclamation, posted in vari-

tically told in the following proclamation, posted in various highways:

On the 5th inst., Morita Kanya and the two comedians, Kawatake Shinshichi, and Fakurada Jisuke, were summoned to the office of the first division of the city. These persons were admonished by the officers thus: "Aithough it cannot be doubted that all such ancient regulations as are molecous must be keept in force, it has yet been decided that the intentional misapplications of words in all dramas may be discontinued—such as Ushiba Hisayosi for Hashiba Hideyosi. [This is one of the names of Talko, the famous roler of the 18th century.] If children remember Hisayosi for Hideyosi, and Harunaga for Nobunaga fa predecessor of Talko), it may finally happen that they bring themselves under great misfortune. In the theater, not only these, but also all other things, should be represented with exactness. Although it is true that the historical plays are of the highest importance, the considers should not be unreasonably neglected; because from them, properly performed, good lessous can often be derived. Reflect well upon this, and tell the actors of the other two houses what has been said to you. With the present civilized idea of the people, the theater may be considered as a little college. The learning of the sages and philosophers is taught for the moral instruction of the community. The explanation of their beaks and the Chinese classios, and the development of historical and moral truths by actors, are nearly the same, differing only in circumstance. The actors are thus instruments of education. Such being their office, their behavior must be carefully guarded. The best object of the theater is now to teach the yout had women history. Theerefore, to make the circumstances income as those of the Yedo dynasty, and give them the appearance of having happened during the Addiring a government, is a great mistake, as these two periods are widely different. In order to reform these abuses the above notice is given, not only for the benefit of the pu

The first part only of this proclamation seems to have been the authoritative decree. The remainder was apparently added in the way of friendly counsel. I have adeavored to give as literal translation as possible and I think you will agree that, as a succinct official document on an important social subject, it will bear a pretty rigid criticism. I have in my mind some theatrical systems of the West which would not be seriously infured by an admonition of the same sort; especially it the Government had the power to enforce it, as it has

WOMEN ACTING ON THE STAGE. The third form, the mingling of women with the dramatis persone, appears to be due to the influence of a once celebrated actor named uke, who was himself distinguished for the portrayal of feminine characters. This last has not yet been roughly carried out, the real women intrusted, thus far, only with parts of inferior import ance, probably because they are at present only in their apprenticeship, but perhaps, also, on account of the natural unwillingness of the male actors to surrender their privileges too suddenly. Any way, the innovation is privileges too suddenly. Any way, in him to recognized as an advantage, and appears to be thoroughly welcome. In time, the opicene comedian will disappear altogether. The interference of the champlon of fer theatrical rights came about in this way: For a long time Taposuke had not been seen in public, having, at the hight of his career been stricken with disease, and been obliged, according to the radical notions of the native surgeons, to undergo the amputation of his feet and hands. Nobedy supposed that he would ever take part in a public performance again, when suddenly the manager of the first theater announced the retired but not forgot ten actor in a series of his familiar and famous persona tions. Imagine the effect of the return of an unrivaled New-York favorite, supposed to be incapacitated for life, and multiply it a hundred fold, and you may picture the excitement of these theater-loving-Yedo citizens, whose hearts are as tender as they are light. The street in which the play-houses are situated immediately became a blaze of vivid decoration. Great scaffoldings and tran parencies, of the kind which with us are devoted to the giorification of politicians but denied to the heroes of art, were erected by popular subscription, and the very theroughfare itself was dug up and transformed into a temporary garden-blooming trees and bushes running its whole length. The house was crowded at each one of Tanosuke's performances, which were, of course, ar ranged with every possible care to conceal his deficien-cies, and the acclamations with which he was greeted whenever the turn of the scene brought him into view, surpassed anything in the way of theatrical demonstration that I have witnessed elsewhere. To one who saw hite for the first time, although his eleverness asserted itself by many unmistakable signs, the effect of his acting was of course impaired by his infirmities; but to the multitude his mere presence was the renewal of a thousand past delights, and the memory of what, he had been, blinded them to what he now was. At one moment the assemblage would shout with rapture; at another, all would fall to crying like a Boston Museum audience when Mr. Warren plays Triplet. Irrepressible enthusiasts would often rise and divest themselves of their up per garments, which they would fling recklessly upon the stage, much as we fling bouquets, but with the additional advantage to the actor that such article, according to Japanese custom, had to be heavily ransomed at the end of the performance. And almost every day, after his final scene, delegations of young men and women, especially the latter, would go tupon the stage, which in Yedo is always easily accessible from the body of the bouse, and offer him tribute in the form of wreaths and garlands. Perhaps it may have been that he was touched by the feminine homage lavished upon him; or, which is quite as probable, he was willing to figure in dramatic annals as the last great female actor of his sex; these which have succeeded him, though skillful, being notably inferior. Whatever his motive, it is understood that upon his last retirement, he proposed, urged and carried the point of gradually introducing women to the sphere from which prejudice had always excluded them. He may, indeed, secure by this means the partic ular place in artistic recollection to which he aspires, but his true title to fame will be his success in having determined the propriet que maribus of the Japanese stage.

YEDO GOSSIP.

THE GRAND DUKE ALEXIS-POPULAR FESTIVI-TIES-THE MIKADO'S MARCH OF PROGRESS-THE REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT REACTION

TOTALLY DENIED.

[PROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TEIBUNE.] YEDO, Nov. 23 .- It begins to appear as if the only occupation to which the Japanese in this immediate neighborhood are likely to give serious attention this year's that of popular revelry and democratic diversion. Under any circumstances, the natural light heartedness of the people makes their most rigorous vocations seem to a stranger like careless merry-makings; but the number of prescribed festival days is always so large that at least-one-half the time, in one locality or another, is devoted to unrestrained frolic. This year, accident has ordained an unusual excess of occasions which might properly be dedicated to public rejoicing. Whenever a jull has threatened, some visitor of high political or social importance has been sure to in an appearance and thereby to justify new government decrees of national sports, which have been eagerly seized upon as proper opportunisies for the suspension of all business and the re-

excuse for the departure from a sobriety which always sits rather heavily upon the public of Yedo. Since he took up his residence at Hama-Go-Ten—the edifice always held in reserve for foreign guests of the highest distinction-there has been a new uneading round of gayety, in which, according to Japanese custom, the masses have been expected to participate as freely as the select. The Yedo fetes have too often been described to make it necessary to give any special account of those which are now occurring; but certain events, the ostensible warrant for which has been the Grand Duko's presence, are of so significant an interest that they deserve particular notice. To begin with, the Mikado has for the first time visited a foreign guest in his own quarters. In the second place he has allowed a foreign lady to be presented to him—the wife of the Russian Representative in this .egion. In the third, he has invited the Grand Duke and certain Embassadors-believed to be friendly to the Government (Mr. De Long was not among them) -- to an informal gathering at his own house, in which the Empress and the ladies of the court participated. In the fourth place he has promised to make his first visit to a foreign fleet during the sojourn of the Grand Duke, and will, before long, review the Russian ships now in the harbor of Yokohama. A promise was at one time made that the Mikado's first inspection of a foreign fleet should be on board a United States vessel. but circumstances appear to have released the Japanese from that obligation. All the above-mentioned devia-tions from the customs of the Court have been received with considerable surprise, although it now appears that there will probably be no limit to recognition of and participation in the usages of other nations when sufficient opportunities for such action occur. It is rumored, even, that the Mikado has consented to be present at a public ball to be given in honor of the Grand Duke in Yokohama next week. This is probably without foundation, although if such a concession to the desires and fancies of the western world should be made, it really ought not to be received with astonish-ment in view of the almost incredible rash of recent Of actual current incidents there is little just now t

public events.

Of actual current incidents there is little just now to be said. Concerning the imaginary incidents which have been circulated, in a manner which nobody here can account for, throughout the United States, much might be said, although I am almost weary of taiking and you must be weary of hearing of of the falsehoods which are distributed, heaven only knows how, about the affairs of this country. I desire to dismiss the whole business of the report of a reactionary movement in this Government, of a revived policy of exclusion and of the contemplated expulsion of foreigners, by declaring that they are fabrications from beginning to end, without a shadow of foundation of any kind to rest upon. It is a most unfortunate thing that Mori, the Charge d'Affaires at Washington, should have attempted to offer what he calls an explanation of them. Possibly the young official supposed that there may have been some trath in the rumors, and considered it his duty to build up a protecting bulwark against a conjectural evil. If this was his opinion, it is greatly to be regretted that he is not furnished with more accurate reports of the state of the affairs of his own country, or else officially checked from indugling in random speculations upon the subject. The simple truth is that there has been no sign of retrogression, no admission of any anti-progressive faction into the councils of the administration, and no thought of departing from the orinciple of adopting and acting upon judicious foreign ald, under certain limitations, which has been the purpose of this Govern-

PRESIDENT THIERS'S STRUGGLE.

THE MOTION TO CENSURE THE GOVERNMENT-THE RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR-PARTY DIVISIONS-ANALYSIS OF

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Paris, Dec. 4 .- On the 29th of November the Government amendment to the Baltie motion, most ably defended by M. Thiers in a long discourse abounding in ssions to the Right and in censure of the Extreme Left, and clearly presented by him as a Cabinet question, was carried by 372 to 355, Republicans of all shades sustaining, and all Monarchists, except the two Orleans Princes (if, indeed, they are Monarchists or anything). opposing. On the 30th of November a motion to censure the Minister of the Interior, proposed and defended by Bonapartists, was carried by 305 to 298. Minister Lefrance immediately resigned. This gives you the situation, is which the Government hardly retains the privilege of existing and is deprived of liberty of action. The crisis becomes chronic; a little sharper one day than another, varying from fits to fever and from fever to fits. Meantime the national patient is suffering in material interests, and anxious and weary with its indefinite prolonga tion. How to end it is the more and more urgent ques

You may notice what has attracted a great deal of no tice here, that The London Times recommends M. Taiers to appeal directly to the country. That is an heroic remedy, much easier to prescribe than to administer. Let alone the bare possibility Ithat the President's at tempt to "go to the country" might send him to the country or narrower quarters, the operation would be of the nature of a coup de état-a kind of revolutionary measure from which he has suffered once, and against which he always protests. He is too much a stickles for legality-in form at least-and too honest, too wisely attentive to his own fame to proclaim, on his own au thority, dissolution of the Assembly whose legal sovereignty he always recognizes, even when most depre-cating certain exercises of it. There are other objections to the dissolution advised by The Times and demanded by all the more moderate republicans, which are, of nearly as great weight. The heat and smoke of party conflict ever blind his patriotic eye to the fact that Prusslan troopstare still encamped in France, and that the agita tion attendant upon general elections, and continuing at least till after the organization of the new Assembly. would be anything but favorable to the business interests of the community, to the financial credit of the country and to his own authority-held meanwhile by such unsettled tenure with foreign governments. And yet further, it is probable from every present appearance, that the result of general elections this year would be the return of a large Republican majority, with a largely increased proportion of Radical Republicans. To their ideas and principles he never lets pass opportunity of asserting that he is utterly posed, is in fact in taste, sentiment and four fifths of his opinions and doctrines regarding questions of foreign and domestic policy and administrative measures less in accord with them, than with half of the Monarchists who refused him a vote of confidence last Friday. It is just because of this that he went so far in the way of conciliation and concession to the moderate Right that day, far preferring itheir support to that of ins "unnatural" allies, the Gambettists. It is just be cause of this that he is so desirous that the actual Assembly should accept the Republic, and by certain constitutional reforms, in a conservative sense, secure its establishment.

Another consideration may be mentioned. A man does not live high in public life for nothing. Our French President is as virtuous as Presidents run, is eminently patriotic and willing to sacrifice himself on the altar of his country, but prefers sacrifice on the high altar. It is among calculable likelihoods that a new Constituent Assembly might name another President-perhaps do away with the Presidential office altogether, unless they

found it constitutionally established and occupied. But the Monarchists, under their new firm of the Social Conservative and Parliamentary Liberal party, evince a firmness of union and purpose, and a degree o discipline, with some attendant skill in tactics, never displayed before, and which, if persisted in, so hamper the President's freedom of action as to make his place hardly tenable and quite intolerable. All things are possible, but his resignation is one of the least so. That enough of the 335 should leave this coalition of Orlean ists, Bonapartists, and Legitimists to make with Left Center and Moderate Left a new majority-the Radical Left in that case breaking away from the actual one-i talked of, and is conceivable. Of conceivable solutions another remaining one best deserves attention.

Due parliamentary machinery exists for bringing before the House a motion looking to a partial renewal by election of a certain portion of the Assembly. Ac ceptance of this principle of such partial measure, with full pressure of M. Thiers's eloquence to bear it, could hardly fall of obtaining most, if not all, of last Friday's affirmative vote. But a majority of one would strictly suffice. The principle put in practice would pretty surely result in a considerable reduction of the new for midable monarchical majority, being a strictly legal and tolerably effective method of testing public opinion, and liberating the Government from the dead-lock.

This doctrine of partial renewal, has long been a favor ite one with some of the best liberal minds of the country. Many of the Radical Republicans, whose watch word has hitherto been dissolution, have become con verted to it and the President is reported since Friday to favor it. The Right in the Assembly will of course resist its adoption to the uttermost-except the Duc d'Au-male and the Prince de Joinville, who are a singularly colorless party by themselves. Why these two gentle men, most estimable in their private characters, should not prefer their magnificent country seats to the narrow benches of the Versailles theater, where they only play dummy, is a mystery. Although members of a National representative body, they diligently omit in extremely important national questions to represent the opinion of their constituents, or their own if they have any.

The nation is evidently ready for partial elections if recommended by the Government. More than 3,000 addresses from members of municipal and departmental newed worship of the mirth-protecting deities. At present the a*-ent of the Grand Duke Alexis is the councils (out of session). Chambers of Commerce, other

organized associations and collectively signing private individuals, have been already forwarded to M. Thiers from all parts of the country. To avoid either overrating or underrating their importance, it is well to note that, though all of them assume to be in praise and support of the Government, some of them, by reason of the quality of their signers and the political measures they suggest to the President, are looked on by him with only the semi-pleased, reproving eye he cast on the extreme sinister wing of his dangerous friends at Versailles; that in comparatively few instances are they signed by all, in some by only a minority of the councilors of the communes and departments from which they are sent; but that it is not true that the Government has openly or covertly encouraged this order of manifestations. Taken together, these do bear the essential features of a national movement.

this order of manifestations. Taken together, these do bear the essential features of a national movement. Minister Lefranc of the Interior was censured, as I said above, and so resigned, on the ground (which is not true) that he had favored this action of municipal and department councilors, which indeed, in some cases, has been, by strict interpretation of the law of 1855, formally illegal. The notable point is that one Napoleomst whip provoked and another Napoleonist urged this censure, and that Orieanists and clericals barked approval. Despite this, the movement continues, and is beginning to take a new turn. Addresses from the respective electoral districts, more and less numerously signed by discontented constituents, are now coming in to Monarchist Opposition deputies at Versailles, advising them to withdraw, and give honest folks whom they misrepresent open chance to send others in their places.

It is the Right which still masts that, in real truth, it is (or surely would be, if Thiers would only repudiate the Left and join it) the majority of the Assembly, and it is this Right that so violently recalcitrates against any sort of direct appeal to the nation. An analysis of the vote last Friday will have some interest to such of your readers as take interest in French politics. Of the 372 who voted for the Government amendment, eight are ittled nobles, a beggarly account of three maniquises, four counts and a viscount; 2s more their names; the remaining 356 are mere soturiers, pialn misters, whose titles of vulgar citizenship run back no later than 1769. Of the 335 minority, 7 are dukes, 25 marquises, 42 counts, 13 viscounts, 14 barons; 82 add the de to their names, leaving only 162 merely decent cofuriers. To the majority (it is a pity that this analytic comparison should have its special meaning), belong nine generals, two colonels, four admirals; to the minority, six generals, two admirals; no ecolonel, beside one bishop (Dupanloup), and one abbé. The House counts 130 members not chosen in February, 1

THE STOKES TRIAL

INTERESTING TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE.

Yesterday was rather a dull day in the tokes trial, the cross-examinations taking up most of the time, and very little new matter being educed. The proceedings opened with the cross-examination of De Corley, the French parlor-man at the Grand Central, who swore on Saturday to the finding of a second pisto on the evening of the shooting. With a view of testing the credibility of the witness, Mr. Beach questioned him at considerable length on his past history, and elicited the fact that he had joined the Union army during the war - that part of it styled the " Home Gnards"-at Springfield, Missouri. He could not collect the name of a single officer or private and never was himself in a battle, and did not ret even the year in which he joined. He swore that Stokes was very excited on saying to him in the hall, "There's a man shot;" and when reminded of the fact that on the former trial he had sworn to just the contrary, he ex plained the discrepancy by saying that his memory was not always good. He stated further that the pistol which Miss Hall gave him and which he handed to Crockett was a six-barrel revoler. [The one produced in court has four barrels.] In regard to the alleged words of Patrick Hart to him concerning making money out of the transaction, the witness in his broken English said:
"He say de bullet fit black pistol but not de oder; here's a chance," he say, "to make money out of dis;" I say, "I-have nothing to do with it."

John Crofton, a surveyor, who was employed to make a map of the second floor of the botel, was next called, and gave the measurements and distances. The stairs are four feet nine inches wide, and count 16 from the platform to the top.

Samuel McLaughlin testified to Stokes's baving sent a telegram to a Mr. Doty announcing that he was to leave town on Monday. Mr. Tremain wanted to prove by this oss that a week before the homicide Stokes ex pressed to him fear of Fisk's spies, who, he said, were following him, and that he hired a carriage to go few blocks, and asked the witness to accompany him Judge Boardman, however, ruled out this evidence. next witness was George W. Bailey, who was re-

called, and went through a long cross-examination by Mr. Beach with comparative equanimity. He stated positively that he himself saw the lady at the window of the Grand Central to whom Stokes bowed. Mr. Beach succeeded pretty well in calling forth from Mr. Bailey a recital of about everything he did on Jan. 6, previous the shooting. The Court then took a recess, after which the defense put in the testimony of Robert F. Stobo, merchant, taken at the last trial, to the effect that he saw Stokes with a gentleman opposite the Grand Central, and noticed Stokes bow to some one in the window, and then walk across.

The comical witness of the day was Marshall Cowing, Kust who amused the Court by indulging in a sort of theological dissertation, and expressing a most horrifying disbelled in the existence of a God. He now resides at No. 130 East Swenty-eighth-st., but lived in the Grand Central Hotel at the time the shooting took place. He was a pump manufacturer, and belonged to the firm of Cowing & Co., at Senees Falls. About 5 p. m. on the day of the shooting he saw Mr. Crockett, the hotel clerk, looking around for something on the floor of the reception-room, and he told the witness how they had taken a pigtol from Stokes's pocket.

Col. Fellows cross-examined him in the most approved style, and brought out an admission that he was once defendant in a criminal suit. He denied this at first, but subsequently admitted that he did Femember it. He positively refused to tell what the suit was brought for. Col. Fellows asked him if he declined to tell on the ground that the answer would degrade or criminate him, but he said "No," and Judge Boardman insisted on his replying, which he did, to the amusement of the court.

John Moore, the farmer auperintendent of conches at amused the Court by judulging to a sort of theolog-

court.

John Moore, the former superintendent of coaches at
the hotel, testified that after Redmond had run out he
went in and heard Fisk say, "He was too quick for me
this time."

David Groesbeck testified in part: I was formerly David Groesbeck testified in part: I was formerly a stock-broker; I was a large stockholder in the Albany and Suguebanna Railroad; I became acquainted with Mr. Fisk about five years ago; I cannot say anything about his temper and disposition was bad; he was a bad man; he was looked on as a reckless man; his disposition was bad; he was a bad man; he was looked on as a reckless and dishonest man; he certainly was a dangerous man; that was the way he was looked upon.

To Mr. Beach—I should say not, on account of his violent acts; I never heard any one speak of violent acts committed by Fisk; when I spoke of his recklessness, I meant his management of everything; he would stop at nothing; I meant to say he would not stop at having a man murdered; he was a coward.

nan murdered; he was a coward. To Mr. Tremain—After the attack on Mr. Eaton it was the general feeling of those whom I mot that Fisk was at the bottom of it; I meant that he would not stop at the removal of a person who stood in his way.

The great length of street railroad lines in Brooklyn, and the steep grades, especially near the River, together with the recent interruptions of travel, caused first by the horse disease, and later by the storms, have called attention anew to the transit question, and especially to the problem of substituting steam for horse power. Two prominent railread men of that city have lately expressed themselves upon the subject much as follows:

city have lately expressed themselves upon the subject much as follows:

Mr. Sullivan, President of the Brooklyn City Railroad, states that the directors of that road have decided not to adopt steam unless some better application of it is invented than now exists. The 250 cars of the Company would have to be rebuilt and provided with engines if change were made. As many engineers would have to be found, and trustworthy ones are rare, and, were this not the case, they would be a less manngeable class than the present drivers. Explosions would be likely to occur from time to time, with the usual loss of life and property, investigations, and hot-headed censures. The hort and steam would disgust passengers. If larger cars were built, carrying passengers at a greater distance from the engines, the frequent stops would be a damage to such heavy machines, and the danger to other travel would be increased. In a word, in its present method of application steam would be a fallure.

Quite different are the views of Mr. Wm. Richardson, President of the Atlantic and Fifth-ave, line. His company will apply to the next Legislature for leave to use some motive power other than that of horses. That power might be steam, or caioric, or some other power, but the use of the horse was behind the age. The application of steam would be a tunulus to invention in these directions, and such was the only path to new discovery. His company would make the change at the earliest moment. It would be a faster and cheaper method, and a revolution in the whole matter would as surely come as the railroad train and the steamboat succeeded the stage coach and the sailing vessel.

FIRE WRECKS AND RISKS.

SEARCHING THE CENTRE-ST. RUINS. FRAGMENTS OF HUMAN REMAINS AND SHREDS OF CLOTHING FOUND-CORONER HERRMAN'S VERSION OF THE CASE.

About 100 laborers, under the supervision of Police Captain Kennedy, resumed the work of searching among the ruins of the Caxton Building, for the bodies of the victims of the Centre-st. fire, at 7 a. m. yester day, and continued the work until dark. Portions of burned human skull, tufts of singed hair, a pair of women's gaiters encased in overshoes, and fragments of a striped merino shawl were found near the point where the fire-escape was, a considerable distance from the place where the horribly disfigured body of Jane Stewart, age 17, of No. 70 Charlton-st., was found on Sunday. No other traces of the missing bodies were discovered, but the search will be continued, daily, from 7 a. m. till dark. It is feared, however, that some of the bodies may have been entirely reduced to ashes, and that others may have been so mutilated that, even if found, they cannot be recognized.

The search is one of difficulty and is attended with much danger, in consequence of the insecurity of a large brick tower, six stories high, which constituted an extension of the main building, and which seems likely to fall at any moment. In the top of this tower is a large iron tank, filled with water, which settled several inches, yesterday, and will doubless fall with a tremendous crash, unless removed. Capt. Kennedy states that it is the duty of the Superintendent of Buildings to cause the tower to be removed as an unsafe structure; that he has informed that official of the danger, and requested action. Capt. Kennedy further states that he caused the tower to be closely watched while the laborers were at work, but that he fears fatal results if the danger be not at once removed by order of the proper authorities In anticipation that a large force of prisoners would

be sent from Blackweil's Island to work on the ruins, supt. Kelso ordered a detail of three men from each precinct to report to Capt. Kennedy for duty in guarding the prisoners. The prisoners not having been set to work, the detailed officers were posted about the ruins to preserve order and keep back the large crowds of spectators who thronged the vicinity during the day The Commissioners of Charities and Correction sent 100 prisoners to the ruins, but they were locked up in the Tombs, and will be sent back to the Island to-day. They were all what are commonly called "short term men," having been committed for intoxication and disorderly conduct. The unexpired terms of their brief sentences were to have been remitted at the conclusion of the earch, but money having been subscribed to pay for the removal of the ruins, it was decided that the work should be divided among the unemployed laborers of the neighborhood.

About one-third of the mass of bricks, timber, machinery, half-burned paper, and other materials which contitute the ruins, and which are firmly frozen together and mingled with blocks of ice, have been removed, and it is thought that under the most favorable circumstances, several days will clapse before the work can be completed. The cost of the search, from a rough estimate, will be from \$1,000 to \$1,500, though a much larger outlay is anticipated in some quarters. In addition to guarantee by Coroner Herrman that the expenses will e promptly paid, and that he will personally subscribe \$500 for that purpose, if the county officers refuse payment, Capt. Kennedy has received a subscription from Police Justice Dowling, of \$500; from Morgan Jones, of \$250, and from Alderman Gilsey, of \$500, making a total of \$1,750 practically in hand, which will probably prove ample. In addition to this guarantee the following letter was received at the Coroner's Office, from the Con troller, yesterday:

troller, yesterday:

Controller's Office, Monday moraing, Dec. 30, 1812.

O. N. Harmean, Coroner—Dean Sing Your favor of Jath (Saturday), was received by me the same erening. Overshelmed, as I min, with business, at the close of the year, the first I heard of the subject matter of your letter, was on Saturday shermon, nor was I fully aware of the close contained on the case, till just least night, (Sanday). I lasted to reply that I cannot put the expense of the work in the tax-levy—that having been made up long since, and there being no power to cannot it. This I look apon, as a matter requiring prompt attention, and although I have no power to act in such cases, I advise you to inave the clears of the hubbing removed at once, and I will see the argument paid. If any further aid in my power. Had i been previously avaisant of the feets, the work would by this time have been done. I render you any further and to my power. Had I been previous
ed of the facts, the work would by this time have been done,
nucle regret that any delay should have occurred, and I shall do
to refer a the anxiety of those was have suffered by it. Very
fully yours.

AND, H. GHERS, Controller.

In making the search, under these ample guarantees of payment, the laborers worked with vigor, yesterday, and were effectively aided by the police. Heavy beams were dragged from the ruins and deposited in side streets, and thousands of bricks were piled upon the adewalks. The brice safe of the New York Newspaper Union was also recovered and delivered to its owners. The rubbish was cleared way from several heavy print-ing-presses, to remove which some hoising apparatus will be required. About one-third of the space covered by the rains having been already cleared, as above stated, the remainder of the rubbish will be transferred, piece by piece, to the vacant space.

A CORONER'S JURY IMPANGLED. Coroner Herrman has impaneled the following tury to hold the inquest on such bodies as may be found in the

Figure :

Edward Cooper of No. 17 Burling-slip, Peter C. Barnum of No. 198 Chatham-st., Robert J. Hoguet of No. 72 Readest., Enoch Ketcham of No. 199 Beckman-st., Jeremiah Quinlan of Nes. 196 and 198 William-st., Meyer Stern of No. 488 Broadway, Hago Wesendonk of No. 293 Broadway, Charles D. Bailey of No. 23 Chatham-st., George Kuster of No. 25 Chambers-st., John W. Condit of No. 152 Chambers-st., Lewis I. Phillips of No. 53 Greene-st., James T. Whitlock of No. 57 South-st., William C. Conner of No. 28 Centre-st., William M. Fleiss of No. 47 Broadway, and Philip Bissinger of No. 15 John-st.

The jury visited the Sixth Precinct Station-house in the afternoop, and viewed the body already found.

the afternoon, and viewed the body already found. the afternoon, and viewed the body already round.
Deputy-Coroner Cushman, in examining the body after
its identification, found two more rings imbedded in the
charred flesh of a finger of the left hand, which he
pointed out to the jury. After the jury had viewed the
body, and taken the customary osta, they adjourned to
meet at the Coroner's office at 11 a. m. Jan. 6.

CORONER HERRMAN'S EXPLANATION. Coroner Herrman has requested the publi-

COFONER HERRMAN'S EXPLANATION.

Coroner Herrman has requested the publication of the following statement:

"THE TERBUNE, in an article headed, 'Red-Tape Resers,' referring to the matter of searching for the bodies of the victims of the Centre-st. fire,' unjustly reflects on me as 'the Coroner who hositated to order this work done until he could ask the Controller, through the regular channel of communication, who was to bear the expense;' and also makes a general charge of 'official apathy.' So far as the charge of apathy is concerned, I consider the Board of Coroners exempt, and whatever responsibility for delay in this matter may seem to attach to this office, I am willing to assume personally. So far as individual reference to me is concerned, I desire to say, that I had done all in my power and had volunteered a private subscription of \$500 toward the expenses of a search before consulting with the Controller.

"The fire occurred on Tuesday evening, Dec. 24, and no relative of the missing persons, nor any one cise, came to the Coroner's office about it till Friday, Dec. 27, at about noon. Capt. Kennedy of the Sixth Precinct then came and said that Superintendent Kelso had sent him to see if any of the Coroners were in, as he intended to call about searching for the bodies. Instead of waiting for the Superintendent to eail. I immediately went to Police Headquarters to see him. After the matter had been briefly discussed, it was acreed that I should address an official request to the Superintendent to begin a search for the missing persons, and that the Superintendent should then lay the subject before the Board of Police Commissioners for immediate action. This was done, but on the following morning, Saturday, I called at Police Headquarters to learn the action. This was then brought to the attention of the Board of Health, but this Board was also informed by counsel that it had no authority to order the removal of the ruins. I then, in the presence of the made among the ruins. Immediately after the adjournm came to my office early on Sunday morning, and sent

the case, they would be a less manageatic class than the present drivers. Explosions would be likely to occur from time to time, with the usual loss of life and property, investigations, and hot-leaded censures. The host and steam would disgust passengers. If larger card ware built, carrying passengers at a greater distance from the engines, the frequent stops would be a damage to the engines, the frequent stops would be a damage to other travel as the rail of the attained and steam would be a failure.

President of the Atlantic and Fifth-avo line. His company will apply to the mext Legislarure for leave to use as more motive power other than that of horses. That power might be steam, or caloric, or some other power, but the use of the borse was behind the sace. The application of steam would be a faster and cheaper method as moment. It would be a faster and cheaper method, and as revolution in the whole matter would as surely come as the railroid train and the steamboat succeeded the stage coach and the saling resease.

The BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

The BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, which is the country of the supervisor of the value of the subscripting to ward the standing bands against the country, and for what purpose they were issued; also a detailed statement of all unpaid claims against the country, and for what purpose they were size of the carrying the supervisors has follows: Requesting the Controller of the subscription of the country is even to the subscription of the country is controller of the subscription of the country is controller of the subscription of the country is controller

conferred. I have not only done my full duty, but far more than my lawful duty, and therefore ought to be free from unjust censure."

INSPECTING THE THEATERS. FOUR AUDIENCE-ROOMS EXAMINED-WOOD'S

MUSEUM ALLEGED TO BE UNSAFE. Fire-Marshal McSpedon's report of the result of an examination of the theaters, and the precautions against fire in each, was published in The Tribune on Saturday. Under orders from the Fire-Marshal, Officer A. B. Mooney inspected, on Saturday and yesterday, the Fifth Avenue Theater, the Grand Opera House, Wood's Museum, and the Union Square Theater. The following report was made:

Wood's Museum, and the Union Square Theater. The following report was made:

The premises known as the Union'Square Theater were examined on Saturday by Fire Marshal McSpedon and Officer Mooney. They found the foot-lights and border-lights, as well as those on both sides and in the dressing-rooms, covered with globes made of fine wire. The stage is lighted by four rows of lights, protected by sheet-fron and wire-screens. The lights are placed shout seven feet from the edges of the wings and borders. The house is heated by steam, which is obtained from a boilet under the giglewalk in Fourteenth-st. The steam-pipes fill through the ceilings of the kitchen into the theater; on the first visit made to the theater we gave orders to give them more space, as they were considered not safe; work has since been done, and we now consider the Union Square Theater one of the safest and best disposed theaters in the city in regard to fire. In addition to the ordinary stage room for scenery there is a large recess built on the Fourth-ave, side of the building for this purpose, and we strongly recommend this improvement to other managers. Nothing is allowed to remain on the stage of this theater during a performance but the set in use. This we regard as a most valuable custom, and well worthy of imitation. On the top of the building there is a tank containing 4,000 gallons of water, and the theater could be flooded at any moment. The watchmen carry indicators, and every possible precaution is taken against dire.

Wood's Museum is heated with steam. The furnace and boiler are in the front basement; the pipes in several places touch the wood-work and are very dancerous; the lights are not all protected; the stove in the property-room is not in a safe condition; there is no hose, as there should be on both sides of the stage, with hydrants.

The Fifth Avenue Theater is heated by three furnaces, and the pipes from these furnaces run into a flue, and where they run through wooden partitions, they are guarded with sheet-iron overhea

The Grand Opera House is heated by steam. The fur-The Grand Opera House is heated by steam. The furnaces and two boilers are in the basement on the Twenty-fourth-st, side. One boiler is only used in Summer for printing purposes. The pipes leading from the boilers are at such distances from wood-work as to be considered safe. There is no fire at any point for heating except in the basement. There are six different places in the house where there is hose attached to fire-place with eight ire extinguishers; the lights over and under the stage are protected with wire robes; the border lights are guarded with wire screens; the pipe that supplies the radiators is in a dangerous condition; the carpet is close to the steam pipe. team pipe.

The examination of the remaining theaters will be

THE DANGER OF SUPERHEATED STEAM.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: In answer to a communication from M. Baker, which appeared in this morning's journals, and in which he attempts to throw doubt upon the assertions made by me in my report upon the dangers of superheated steam, I would most respectfully inform oth yourself and the public that it is a well-known fact among all persons interested in fire matters, that if there is sufficient steam remaining in pipes after the fire has been banked, it is liable to turn into a gas that heats the

is sufficient steam remaining in pipes after the fire has been banked, it is liable to turn into a gas that heats the pipes and makes them in many instances red hot. This is a gradual process, and not an instantaneous action, as Mr. Baker would pretend that I asserted. This result occurs when there is absolutely not fire enough to make steam from the water. A pound of steam will occupy 2,600 times the space of a pound of water, and less fire will heat it than the pound of water. That this superheated steam heats the pipes to a red heat in many instances we have abundant evidences in this office to prove. Many fires occur in every large city from this cause. The assertion made by me in your journal of the 29th inst. that superheated steam is one of the most dangerous elements we have obtained against, insurance people in New-York and all over the country, who are thoroughly conversant with the properties and the dangerous character of this combustible, well know. In my official capacity I have been unceasingly impressing upon the people who use it the necessity of the greatest care in looking after the pipes where they bend, or pass through the cellings or floors. If the Mr. Haker, who answered my communication is the head of the firm of Baker & Smith who put the boiler and steam fittings into Baraum's Museum, IJ can readily understand his sensitiveness on the subject, but in explaining the cause of the fire I by no means desired to point out that these boilers and steam fittings were any less secure than those made up any other manufacturers. Tracting my humble experience may bring some light to science, I bog to inform Mr. Baker and the public that aithough the steam remaining in pipes is frequently overheated, and sometimes proves disastrous, I never meant to alarm the public mind by a statement that this always occurs though I would impress on Mr. Baker and the people the great necessity of quarding against the effects of this element. I shall be most happy, at any time, to explain to any gentlemen who feels Dec. 30, 1872.

EXAMINING BROOKLYN HOTELS.

THE POLICE COMMISSIONERS, UNLIKE THE FIRE MARSHAL, CONSIDER THEM SAFE.

Fire Marshal Keady made an official investigation of the condition of the Pierrepont, Mansion, and Clinton Houses, the leading hotels in Brooklyn, last week, and made a report declaring that the buildings were totally unprovided with means of escape in case of fire, and were otherwise dangerous to human life. The report was so severe that the Police Commissioners have suppressed it, and after making a visit to the hotels they have declared them to be in good condition in every way. The Pierreport House was visited by Gen. Jourdan, Mr. Briggs, and Mr. Kauf-mann, who inspected it from cellar to garret. They found the two wings provided with fire-escapes, and at their suggestion the proprietor immediately ordered another to be constructed from the roof of the hotel to the roof of the adjoining building, and by that means those who sleep on the upper story will be enabled to effect at escape in case of fire. With that additional means of escape the hotel is rendered a safer place of residence than many private houses in the city where there is a single stairway, and that usually a narrow one, down

which the inmates can make their escape. The Mansion House was found to be equally well pro teeted, and the only improvement which suggested itself to Gen. Jourdan and Mr. Briggs, on their tour of inspection through the building, was the building of an additional fire-escape from the roof to the ground. The building is already provided with two, one at each wing, and the proprietor will add a third. They also found the building provided with a portable fire-escape, which can be thrown out of the window. Buckets of water are kept in readiness on every floor in the building. The furnaces and heating apparatus in each building were also inspected and found to be perfectly safe. At the Pierrepont House a window on the top floor, guarded with an iron grating, was pointed out to the proprietor, who has ordered it to be removed, and its place supplied with a light half-blind of wire, which can be readily removed if the inmates should ever be called upon to seek for safety on the roof.

The proprietors of other botels have called at Pohce Headquarters and expressed a desire to do all in their power to make their buildings perfectly safe. In a few days the Commissioners will also inspect these buildings, and when that is done the report of the Fire Marshal will be published. itself to Gen. Jourdan and Mr. Briggs, on their tour of will be published

"TRIBUNE" REPORTS OF THE TYNDALL LEC-

TURES.
To the Editor of The Tribuns.

SIR: I have wanted to thank you for the thorough reports of Prof. Tyndall's lectures given in your paper. As soon as the rumor of the Professor's projected visit reached this side, I was anticipating with intense nterest the promised course. In following up, without losing one step, his lucid reasoning, it has yet been a great help to me that I could in your admirable reports go over again some minutize that might otherwise have scaped my memory, and that I have also been enabled to impart my satisfaction to friends at a distance by sending them copies of THE TRIBUNE.

A little and not remarkably strong woman, I was at

the hall last evening; and when an acquaintance of the stronger sex greeted me with dolorous doubts as to whether the leasure would not be postponed on account of the storm Indeed, he felt confident it would be postponed-I said, No! Prof. Tyndall is an English gentleman and a scientist; he does not believe in setting aside obligations for trivial ends. He will lecture! I ventured through the storm in the faith that Prof. Tyndail, being in the habit of conscientious exactitude as regards physical scence, would be likely to exercise similar conscioutious exactness in a moral obligation. I know that after struggling through the storm—picked up from snow wreaths, and when blinded by the drift, guarded from sleighs by the care of my escori—I would have felt myself bittoriy ill used had the lecture been postponed, and so, I think, would Professor Olssen of St. Stephou's College, Annandale, whom I noticed there, and who, braving all the dangers of railroad travel in the Winter season, had come from Dutchess County for these lectures. Was your reporter alghtly ironical when he makes (by construction) the Professor say he would "pray" for those who said hard things about him! His words were that he would return "blessing" for the animadversions of his Presbyterian friends. The humility that Joins the psalmist in saying "What is man that thou art mindful of him," does not necessarily result in unbelief. Timt Professor Tyndall's lectures do not weaken one's faith is the experience of gards physical s ...nee, would be likely to exercise simi-Weaken one's faith is the experience of

THE CITY'S MONEY.

THE CHAMBERLAIN AND THE DEPOSITS FOR THE TAX-PAYERS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW-YORK - A CARD FROM THE CITY

CHAMBERLAIN. To the Editor of The Tribune Sir: In your paper of last Saturday is an article under the head of "The Comptroller and the Deposits," which, it seems to me, demands notice at my hands. If you thoroughly understood the law and the practice of our City Government as to its finances, you would not be so ready to complain of the Chamberlain for the omission to earn interest on the public moneys. It was the Common Council that had the right to authorize expenditures. It was the duty of the Comptroller to audit amounts and draw warrants on the common fund. and the province of the Chamberlain to be the custodian

of the moneys and pay them out on the warrants of the

Comptroller, countersigned by the Mayor. Until within a few years banks, through their pres dents and cashiers, were Chamberlains, and only \$500 . year was allowed as compensation for all the labor and responsibility of the position, it being understood on all nds that the use of the money by the bank made up an adequate compensation. At that time there was no State tax collected, and the amount on deposit in the bank was not very large. But when a State tax was imposed and the city deposits largely increased, and while Mr. Sweeney was Chamberlain, a law was proposed in the Legislature that he should deposit the publie moneys in such banks as would allow the largest in terest on them. It was, however, recollected at Albany that such an experiment had once been tried with the funds of the State, and had resulted disastrously. It had been found that the weakest banks offered the largest rate of interest, and by their failure the State had lost several hundred thousand dollars; so the proposed law was not adopted. It was palpable, however, that something should be done to produce some compensation from the use by banks of such large sums of money as were then in the Chamberlain's bands. So that officer availed himself of a law which allowed him to designate not less than three banks in which all the moneys of the City and County should be deposited, and from time to time change them.

That law provided for a compensation by the banks for the moneys thus deposited with them by enacting that these selected banks should pay proportionately to the monthly balances, the office rent of the Chamberlain, the salaries to be fixed by him of his clerks and a Deputy Chamberlain; thus providing as a compensation for the depositor an exemption of the City and County from all expense for receiving, keeping, and paying out some \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 a year. Mr. Sweeny, how ever, went further, for he made it a condition in select ing his depositaries that they should pay interest on the monthly balances. Out of that interest he paid the expenses of his office, and paid the balance into the Treasury. Those balances thus turned over by him and his successor amounted to \$115,000. That was the system which I found in operation when I took the office, and I continued it and intended to carry it out. I was appointed Jan. 6, 1872, and when I came into office I found that the following letter had been sent by the Comp troller to all the depositaries:

CITY OF NEW-YORK, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, }

to all the depositaries:

CITY OF NEW-YORK, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, {
COMPTROLLE'S OFFICE, Dec. 16, 1872. }

To the Broadway National Bank, designated Depository of the moneys of the City and County of New-York raised by taxation and from other sources, have been deposited with, you, in accordance with the designation made as required by law; and for the use of moneys thus deposited with you have agreed to pay the annual interest of four per cent upon the said balances to the credit of the City or County. It has been your practice, I understand, to keep separate accounts of the moneys deposited, and of the moneys accraining as interest upon these balances. The moneys accrains as interest upon these balances. The moneys deposited are drawn from you by warrant signed by the Comptroller, countersigned by the Mayor, with the addition in the case of county moneys of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, while the accrued interest you have allowed to be drawn by the clock of the Chamberlain alons.

As the moneys deposited with you belong to the city and county and not to the Chamberlain, of course the interest accruing for the use of such moneys rightly belongs to and becomes the property of the city and county, and not thatfof the Chamberlain. The accrued interest, as in the case of the moneys deposited, can only therefore be legally drawn from you by warrant, signed by the Comptroller, countersigned by the Mayor, and in the case of the Board of Supervisors. The Chamberlain has no authority to draw such interest money, or to require you to pay the same to him by check or otherwise. In these circumstances I have now to request that, at the end of each month, you will please add to the crodit of the accounts of the city and county, or out of the funds deposited of the city and county, or out of the accrued interest thereon, will be sanctioned by this Department, unless such payments made by warrant, signed by the Comptroller and Mayor, and, where necessary, by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Shortly after my a

Shortly after my appointment I requested the Comp troller to withdraw that letter, and proposed to him that I would get the checks for the interest from the depostories, payable to the order of the Comptroller, so that, he might credit the same to such accounts as in his judg ment might seem proper. Tals he refused, giving no

reason therefor. On the 5th of February, 1872, the Broadway Bank received the following letter from the Comptroller, showing his determination to persist in his course of the 16th of

CITY OF NEW-YORK—DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE. COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, Feb. 3, 1872.

To the Broadway National Bank: In my communication to you of the 16th December, 1871, I called your attention to the subject of the interest on deposits of the City and County of New-York, in the following

words, viz.:
"I have now to request that at the end of each month you will please
add to the credit of the accounts of the city and county on your books
the amount of interest which accuracy upon the the daily balances at the
credit of each account, and that you inform me of the amount of such
arcelite, that corresponding entries may be made in the books of this

Department."
As no statements of interest for the months of December and January last have been received by this Department, I would again request that the same be furnished as above required, without further delay. Very respectfully, yours,

AND. H. GREEN. Comptroller. Afterward I called on those same depositaries for the interest on the sums in their hands, and I received the following replies to my demand:

following replies to my demand:

THE NATIONAL PARK BANK OF NEW-YORK,

NEW-YORK, Jane 3, 1872.

F. A. PALMER, esq., Chamberlain—Dear Sir: I have
your letter of this date asking for check for \$8,599 73,
being the amount of interest accraed to date on the
moneys of the City and County of New-York deposited
with this bank. In answer I beg to say under date of
Feb. 3, 1872, the Comptroller, Mr. Andrew H. Green, gave
this bank the order, of which the following is a copy,
and to which, as our governing authority, I now call
your attention:

and to which, as our governing authority, I now call your attention:

"No payment by you out of the funds deposited of the city and county, or out of the accrued interest thereon, will be sanctioned by this department, unless such payment is made by warrant signed by the Countroller and Mayor, and, when necessary, by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

"Yours respectfully,

UNION TRUST COMPANY OF NEW-YORK, 72 BROADWAY, COR. OF RECORDS, A. PALMER, esq., Chamberlain, etc. Deer Sur? Beforing to a copy of letter from the Hon. A. H. Green, Computable, of December 16 last, sent by respect to Mr. Origiton this morning, I bug to say that the interest accross on the depost of the Country of New York has been interest accross on the depost of the Country of New York has been determined to the country, subject to draft as directed in said letter. With much respect, yours truly, J. H. FROTHINGIAN, President.

In the meantime, after the Broadway Bank had received the Comptroller's letter of the 15th of December and before I was appointed Chamberlain, I had referred the matter to Judge Edmonds, my counsel, and had recelved from him the following reply:

and before I was appointed Chamberlain, I had referred the matter to Judge Edmonds, my counsel, and had received from him the following reply:

New-York, Dec. 28th, 1871, 271 Broadway.

Under chapter 623 of the laws of 1866, the Broadway.

Entry Dall LEC
ibune.

ibune